

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 078074
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:GCB
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
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IO:RBARRY
S:AHOUGHTON
S/S-O:JETHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 078074

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PBOR, MARR, LE, IS, XF

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: LEBANESE ARMY MOVES

REF: JERUSALEM 876; BEIRUT 1640

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 078074

1. WE BELIEVE YOU AND EMBASSY STAFF MUST MAKE A MAJOR AND
SUSTAINED EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE THE LEBANESE TO SEND TO
SOUTHERN LEBANON AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE SOME LEBANESE ARMY
UNITS, AS WELL AS POLICE AND OTHER CIVIL AUTHORITIES.
WE WERE ONLY SLIGHTLY RELIEVED THAT KHOURY SEEMED TO BE MORE
SPECIFIC ABOUT MOVING UNITS SOUTH WITHIN TWO WEEKS IN TALK

WITH DATT (BEIRUT 1640) THAN HE WAS IN TALKS EARLIER THAT DAY WITH SIILASVUO (JERUSALEM 876). LEBANESE ARE TALKING IN TERMS SIMILAR TO WHAT THEY WERE SAYING TO US WHEN WE HAD HOPES OF GETTING A PALESTINIAN PULLBACK UNDER THE SHTAURA ACCORDS. OUR VIEW IS THAT THE LEBANESE WILL HAVE TO TAKE A FEW CHANCES IF THE UNIFIL OPERATION IS TO BE MADE WORK-ABLE.

2. WE LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE, BUT WE SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER URGING SPECIFIC ACTIONS SUCH AS AN EARLY MOVEMENT OF THE BEKAA FORCE WHICH KHOURY HAS BEEN SAYING FOR MONTHS MAY BE THE MOST RELIABLE TO USE IN THE SOUTH.

3. WE BELIEVE ALSO THAT THE POSSIBLE EARLY ARRIVAL OF A US MILITARY SURVEY TEAM SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO AFFECT LEBANESE PLANNING. WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO SEND THE TEAM AT THIS TIME IF THAT WERE THE CASE. YOU SHOULD MAKE THIS POINT CLEAR.

4. IF THE LEBANESE ARE CONCERNED-- UNDERSTANDABLY, IN OUR OPINION -- ABOUT MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE ARMY FORCES THROUGH PALESTINIAN CONTROLLED AREAS, IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO ASK THEM WHETHER THEY WOULD BE SEEKING SEA LIFT CAPABILITIES. IF SO, WE COULD BEGIN INVESTIGATING WHAT MIGHT BE DONE. THIS IS AN ISSUE INVOLVING NOT ONLY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 078074

INITIAL MOVEMENTS OF MEN BUT ALSO LONGER TERM LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS SITUATION.
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NNN

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